

Message Text

PAGE 01 VIENTI 06457 191233Z

55

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 004144

R 191015Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5910

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6457

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINR, PINS, PFOR, LA US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVISION OF LAO PROTOCOL
ARTICLE XVI

REFS: A. STATE 184124 B. VIENTIANE 5765

1. FINAL TEXT OF ARTICLE XVI OF LAO PROTOCOL TO VIENTIANE AGREEMENT IS ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME AS EARLIER DRAFT VERSION, WHICH WAS BASIS FOR OUR COMMENTARY TRANSMITTED ON AUGUST 18 (REF B). AS NOTED THEREIN, WE REGARD ARTICLE XVI AS ONE OF THE MORE UNSATISFACTORY ARTICLES OF THE PROTOCOL. NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT FROM THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE AMBIGUITIES OF ARTICLE XVI, WE CAN CONSTRUCT A BASIS FOR DEFENDING BEFORE U.S. CONGRESS CONTINUATION OF OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

2. STEPS RLG LEADERS TAKE TO ASSIST US IN ESTABLISHING DEFENSIBLE USG POSITION ON PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO RLG WILL BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT. WE HAVE NOT YET REVIEWED WITH PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS END PROPOSED PARA THREE STATE 164626, BUT INTEND TO DO SO AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY. IN THIS CONNECTION IT IS PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT PRIME MINISTER STILL MAINTAINS THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU), WHICH IS TO BE FORMED WITH PARTICIPATION OF LPF MINISTERS, IS ONLY A "RESHUFFLED" VERSION OF
SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 06457 191233Z

EXISTING COALITION GOVERNMENT AND THUS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE SAME RESPONSIBILITIES AS EXISTING GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, AS SOUVANNA SEES IT, REQUEST HE MADE ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1962, FOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE, RE-

MAINS VALID UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REVOKED. WHILE, WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, SOUVANNA WOULD UNDERSTANDABLY BE RELUCTANT TO SUBMIT A NEW REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, HE COULD PERHAPS SATISFY OUR REQUIREMENTS BY PROVIDING A WRITTEN STATEMENT CONFIRMING THAT HIS 1962 REQUEST REMAINS VALID. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT PRIME MINISTER IN INTERVIEW WITH THAI JOURNALISTS SEPTEMBER 18 (CARRIED VIENTIANE RADIO) RESPONDED TO QUESTION ABOUT FUTURE OF FOREIGN AID BY OBSERVING THAT "ONLY MILITARY AID FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES MIGHT BE REDUCED BECAUSE THE WAR HAS COME TO AN END." HE THEREBY STRONGLY IMPLIED IN PUBLIC HIS EXPECTATION THAT FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LAOS WOULD CONTINUE.

3. FROM THE LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LANGUAGE OF ARTICLE XVI LEAVES OPEN THE LOOPHOLE EARLIER IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT -- THAT IS, IN ABSENCE OF UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF WEAPONS AND WAR MATERIAL, EITHER SIDE MIGHT CONSIDER ITSELF FREE FROM THE INTERDICTORY RESTRAINTS OF THE 1954 AND 1962 GENEVA ACCORDS ON LAOS, AND MIGHT THEN HOLD THAT IT IS NOT PRECLUDED FROM INTRODUCING WEAPONS AND WAR MATERIAL FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE. AS POINTED OUT REF B, ARTICLE VI OF THE 1962 GENEVA ACCORDS PROHIBITS INTRODUCTION INTO LAOS OF ARMAMENTS, MUNITIONS AND WAR MATERIEL GENERALLY, "EXCEPT SUCH QUANTITIES OF CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS AS ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF LAOS MAY CONSIDER NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE OF LAOS."

4. QUESTION OF HOW TO HANDLE MILITARY ASSISTANCE OVER LONG TERM, IS, OF COURSE, ONE WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL WISH TO DISCUSS WITH MINISTER SISOUK DURING HIS VISIT TO U.S. EARLY NEXT MONTH.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, AGREEMENT DRAFT, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI06457
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750011-2487
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730964/abqcelpo.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. STATE 184124 B. VIENTIANE 5765
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Nov-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <21-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVISION OF LAO PROTOCOL ARTICLE XVI
TAGS: MOPS, PINR, PINS, PFOR, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005